



JANUARY 2024 • VOL XXXV

KCBCA Update

KCBCA Board President, Ted Fischer presents Mike Tiziana token of our appreciation for his help in relocating and preserving our old Tiki Hut at Sunset Park. Mike is the Store Manager for Marathon's Sunbelt Rentals and frequent Key Colony Beach Pickleball player. He not only arranged to donate use of some heavy lifting equipment to move the thatched roof from the old Tiki to its new location, he personally operated the equipment to safely accomplish this task.



Some final touches (new pads) compliments of City of Key Colony Beach and GA Construction!!!

KC Bee Line

Coconut Crawl 2024

This years Coconut Crawl will be on January 20th from 11am-5pm. We are looking forward to visiting our sponsors and receiving a playing card to make up a poker hand, while enjoying food and beverages.



There will be prizes awarded for Best and Worst hands. Show your Coconut Crawl spirit because there will be awards for best costume and team spirit.

The awards party will be at Havana Jacks with music, food, and a cash bar. The price is \$30. for KCBCA members, \$35. for non-members. If you are not a KCBCA member yet, you can sign up for membership as well as for the Coconut Crawl at KCBCA.ORG.



Tickets online will be available January 5th.

For more info click below. It will take you to our website:

[KCBCA COCONUT CRAWL](#)

There will also be a registration at the KCB Post Office on Wednesday, January 10th from 11-1, and on Monday, January 15th from 2-4. Late registration is on Saturday January 20th, from 9-11, at Key Colony Inn, with a price of \$40.

The Key Colony Beach Association is looking forward to another fun filled day with our friends and neighbors.

2024 Coconut Crawl



Key Colony Beach
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
A Not For Profit Organization • P.O. Box 510884, Key Colony Beach, FL 33051 • KCBCA.org

Saturday, January 20th
11 am—5 pm
Awards Party 3:30 pm—5 pm

Registration

- * Online at KCBCA.ORG
- * KCB Post Office Wed., Jan 10 (11am-1pm)
Mon, Jan 15 (2pm—4pm)
- * Key Colony Inn Sat., Jan 20 (9am—11am)

\$30 KCBCA Members
\$35 Non-Members
\$40 Day of Crawl

Prizes awarded for Best & Worst Hand,
Best Costume, & Team Spirit



Christmas Boat Parade

Another boat parade is in the books. The Key Colony Beach Fishing & Boating Club organized the event with help from the Key Colony Beach Community Association. The total count including KCB police and USCG Marathon was 14 boats with winners as shown below. Mother nature was kind in delaying the wind and rain. The awards party at KC Inn was well attended by 80 plus festive captains and crews. Appetizers and pizza were plentiful. A good time was had by all. This was my first year running the parade taking over from Ted Fischer who led it for 7 years prior. We appreciate all the hard work our captains and crews put in decorating their boats as well as the difficult job our 6 new judges had deciding our winners. We'd also like to thank the City of KCB Public Works Dept. for trimming the mangroves along Sadowski Causeway to allow spectators to get a good view of the parade, UPS Store, and the Keys Weekly.

Last but not least, we want to give a huge shout out of "THANK YOU" to our MAJOR sponsors:

Karen Raspe /Tracy Chacksfield & Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices

Marathon Sail & Power Squadron

Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.

Key Colony Beach Realty, Inc.

**[Click here for
Parade Photos & Results](#)**

If you know anyone who was on a boat in the parade, we encourage you to ask them about their experience. Watching from the shoreline is great, but as they will tell you, captaining and crewing a boat is an incredible experience you won't ever forget. Entry is free every year and we'd love to double the number of boats we have. Watch for our notices on Facebook, KCBCA.org website beginning in November or contact me to find out how to sign up for next year!
Happy New Year!

Steve DeCrow, Parade Chairman
(518) 859-5662
Sed6420@gmail.com

Pickleball

Intro to Pickleball for KCB Homeowners!

If you have been wondering what all the buzz is about around pickleball or have been interested in learning more, now's your chance!



The newly created Key Colony Pickleball Club, Inc. recently formed to organize play at our 8th Street facility and lead the fundraising efforts in expanding courts within our community to support the ever-growing number of players, is holding an "Intro to Pickleball" seminar Tuesday, January 9th from 11-12 PM.

The game combines elements of tennis, ping-pong, and badminton. The rules are simple, and the game is easy for beginners to learn. Mike Yunker, Club Chairman a long-time advanced player along with other club members will be demonstrating the key aspects and explaining the game.

All are welcome and no equipment is needed.

Come out and have some fun and learn why Pickleball has become the fastest growing sport in America!

RSVP to: kcbpickleballclub@gmail.com

Key Colony Beach Pickleball Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 510737

Key Colony Beach, FL 33051

kcbpickleball.com

2023/24 Season Event Dates,

Saturday Nov. 18	Welcome Back Party KC Inn
Sunday, Dec. 10	Boat Parade KCBF&BC
Monday, Dec. 24	Santa Comes to Town
Saturday, Jan. 20	Coconut Crawl
Sunday, Jan 28	Concerts in Sunset Park Season Begins
Sunday, Mar. 3	67th Annual KCB Day
Sunday, Mar. 17	St Patrick's Day Parade

Santa Came to Town!



Left: Even our Chief of Police Kris DiGiovanni, wife and loyal pooch were there for Santa

KCBCA Elves (and Board Members) l-r: Barb Quick, Toni Appell, Jan & Richard Pflueger



The KCBCA elves were hard at work setting the stage for Santa's visit to KCB. The cookies were ready for the crowds to enjoy while waiting for the man himself to arrive.

He kept us all waiting a bit longer than expected, but it was worth the wait.

This Christmas Eve tradition, Santa's Christmas Caravan, is thanks to the City of Marathon's Fire Rescue. We just try to make it a bit more friendly with of supply of cookies, juice, holiday music and, a new addition this year, light sticks so we didn't lose the kids!



City News

The KCB City Commission organizational meeting was Thursday, December 14, 2023. Here are the results:

- Joey Raspe was elected Mayor.
- Freddie Foster was elected Vice-Mayor.
- Tom Harding was elected Secretary-Treasurer.
- Kris DiGiovanni was reappointed Chief of Police.
- Dirk Smits was reappointed City Attorney.
- Dave Turner was not reappointed City Administrator.
- Lenny Leggett was reappointed City Building Official.
- Silvia Gransee was reappointed City Clerk.
- The Volunteer Committees were all reappointed.

For the minutes from the commission meetings, go to the City's website: <https://keycolonybeach.net/citydocs-3/>

[Click for Link to City/Community January Calendar of Events](#)

KCB Book Club

December's KCB Book Club met on the 14th and had an extremely enjoyable discussion about the book, Don't Forget to Write, by Sara Goodman Confino. Our thoughts and perspectives regarding the book led to some very interesting insights of the cultural differences between the 1960s and today.

We look forward to the next meeting which will be held on Thursday, January 11, 3:00 p.m., at the KC Inn. The book we will be reading and reviewing is West with Giraffes, by Lynda Rutledge. The story takes place in 1938 and the world is in chaos (sound familiar?) Everyone is invited. Even if you've only read a portion of the book, or none of it at all, we welcome you all.

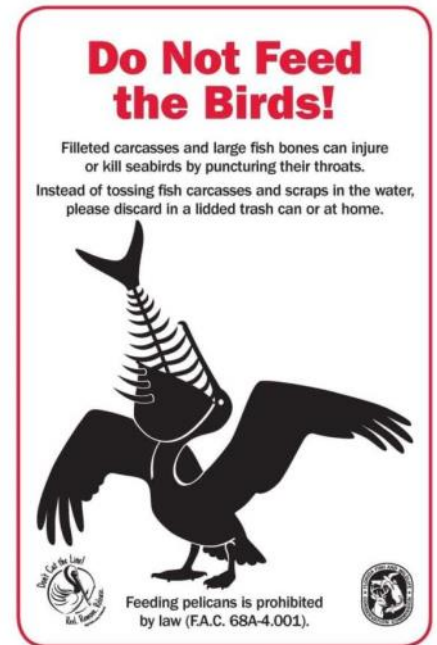
Sandy Glassman boca_bob@bellsouth.net



MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

Jamboree and Rummage Sale, January 27th, 2024 - 8:30am-3pm

On Saturday, January 27th, the Marathon Garden Club, at 5270 Overseas Highway, MM 50, will hold their annual January Jamboree from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Local plant experts will be on hand to answer questions. There will be plants and orchids for sale, local vendors, jewelry, pottery, a huge rummage sale, food, and fun! Here is your chance to buy plants grown in the Keys that are specifically geared to our climate and soil conditions.



KCB Ladies Golf League

The KCB ladies golf league donated Toys for Grace Jones Daycare. League member, Julie Johnson coordinated the event. Sixty children 5 and under received age appropriate toys.



Pictured: Kelly (left) manager of Grace Jones and Julie (right) member of the golf league.

Second Slice of the Pie

Last month we told you how and when the south part of Sunset Park was acquired in the spring of 2000. As promised, this is how we finally got the second, north, slice of the Sunset Park pie.

The Kaycee Bee Line January 2002:

GOOD NEWS ABOUT SUNSET PARK!

On Dec 3, commissioner Clyde Burnett, (later to be Mayor of KCB) who worked through all the bureaucratic details, received a call from Florida Communities Trust (FCT) that a \$1 million grant was approved for purchase of the adjoining lot.

This was the result of meetings and countless phone calls, many enlisting the support of Ken Sorensen, our state representative. The grant opportunity started with the "discovery" in early spring of \$2.9 million left over from the year 2000 preservation fund of FCT. Since the money had not been used to acquire land then, could it now be allocated to the Area of Critical Concern (ACC)? That's us, the Florida Keys. Yes, if the Florida legislature in Tallahassee okays.

Sorensen attached the measure to seven bills, none of which passed. Finally he put it into a 23-page bill concerning Everglades restorations. That was signed by the Governor in July. But Clyde had to contact Sorensen again when it looked like the funds might be siphoned off elsewhere instead of to ACC. Sorensen straightened out that misinterpretation by FCT lawyers so the grant request preparation could go forward.

Now that it's approved we await final steps to "close the deal." FCT's grant supervisor, in his site inspections, expressed satisfaction with the lot and the City's plans for it. Next we'll sign their contract for preserving ecological integrity (no tennis courts, tents or ferris wheels) and providing proper management; mostly promises already made in the grant request. Finally, we're required to present two legal appraisals of which the higher will be acceptable. (Community Association may cover that cost)

All of this should be accomplished by March. Mayor Sheahan promises a ribbon cutting ceremony shortly after to which the entire City will be invited.

So now you know how we got Sunset Park. Nothing is ever easy especially when working with the government. But, eventually things work out and all who live, work, rent or visit, benefit.



The Key Colony Beach Community Association helps to build a happier, healthier community. We believe that by working together and volunteering our time and energy, we can create a better place for everyone to live in. Our volunteer-based organization is always looking for dedicated individuals who share our passion for community engagement and empowerment. We provide a variety of opportunities for people of all skill levels to get involved and make a positive impact. Together, we can achieve great things!

We are reaching out to the community to gather information about your preferences, skills, and availability to assist in staffing our events. Your involvement, even if just for 2 hours, makes a significant difference in the success of these events, and we want to ensure that your experience aligns with your preferences. So please, click below and take our short survey. Thank you.

[Click Here for Survey](#)

Marathon Airport



The 8000-foot airstrip in Marathon was built on 280 acres of land that was purchased at \$70 an acre from Maitland Adams and Norberg Thompson of Key West. Marathon Airport was built during World War II for the military as an outlying emergency airfield and a practice strip for pilot training. Edward Belcher, owner of the Belcher Oil Company in Miami, was the primary contractor and transformed the 280 acre parcel of mangroves and scrub into an airfield in about six months. Construction, which mostly involved dredging and moving fill dirt, began in the fall of 1942 and was completed in spring 1943. Marathon would become a Navy Outlying Field (OLF) and an auxiliary airfield to Naval Air Station Key West (NAS). Used by Army Air Forces Antisubmarine Command, 26th Antisubmarine Wing. The Army Air Forces turned responsibility for antisubmarine warfare over to the U.S. Navy in 1943.



KCB Mugs, License Plates and Other Items for Sale in City Hall



P.O. Box 510884
Key Colony Beach, FL 33051
A Not For Profit
Organization

KCBCA.org



Any articles, photos, questions, comments are welcome.

Please send them to:
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Address changes:
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**It's Your Community.
Be there for it!**

